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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" (*a*) No. There was no attack on the premises by the Police.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—" Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state whether there was entry into the premises, if not an attack?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" There was no entry; you can call it by any name you like; there was enquiry."

Alleged watching of the Police of the movements of an accused in the Cocanada bomb case.

* 71 *Q.*—SRI D. SRIRAMAMURTI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state why the police are still watching the movements of Kakarala Kameswara Sastry—First accused in the Cocanada bomb case?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" The Government regret that they must decline in the public interest to answer the question."

Administration of various ports under the control of the Local Government.

* 71-A *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased—

(*a*) to place before the House a statement showing—

(1) the various ports under the management of the Provincial Government;

(2) by what body each is administered and under what legislative enactment, and if under an Indian Act, from what date;

(3) the income and expenditure for two years ending 31st March 1937 and for the year ending 31st March 1938 (if figures are available) of each of the ports;

(4) the net saving in the case of each of the ports and for all ports for the years mentioned; and to state

(*b*) whether Government, in the interests of the public, have enquired and ascertained the wants and needs of the public in the case of the several ports, as to the following:—

(i) sheds for the embarking and landing of passengers;

(ii) wharfs and landing places;

(iii) signal posts for signalling the sighting of vessels coming into the port from a distance or the departure of vessels from a neighbouring port and other facilities for the convenience and comforts of passengers; and

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(c) whether Government have laid down a scheme with standard plans and approximate estimates on a minimum and maximum scale for the guidance of Port Authorities or contemplate laying down such a scheme?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" (a) (1) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement printed as Appendix I on page 91 of the Council Debates, Volume III, No. I.

" (2) All the ports are administered by the Presidency Port Officer subject to the control of the Provincial Government under the Indian Ports Act (XV of 1908). At 10 of the 12 ports to which the Madras Outports Landing and Shipping Fees Act (Madras Act III of 1885) has been extended, advisory bodies called port conservancy boards at four ports, and landing and shipping fees committees at six of them, advise the Port department authorities on matters relating to the administration of the ports. These ports are enumerated in the Appendix II on page 92 of the Council debates above mentioned. The Indian Ports Act was applied to the ports in this Province from time to time, the earliest applications being in 1858 under the old Act XXII of 1855. There were subsequent enactments in 1867, 1875 and 1889, all of which have been repealed. The Indian Ports Act of 1908 is the one now in force.

" (3) & (4) A statement[a] relating to 1936–37 and 1937–38 giving particulars as far as available under Landing and Shipping Funds is placd on the table. Similar accounts under the Minor Ports Fund are not maintained for each port and hence the information is not available.

" (b) The Government have not recently made any such enquiries, but the Presidency Port Officer has formulated a comprehensive scheme for the improvements of ports, and each proposal is being dealt with on its merits.

" (c) The answer is in the negative."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—" May I know, Sir, why separate accounts are not kept for each port under the Indian Ports Act? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" Some years ago separate accounts were kept. Afterwards there were two groups of ports called the Eastern and Western and since it was found difficult to keep separate accounts, all the minor ports were declared as one port and since then amalgamated accounts are being kept."

a Printed as Appendix VII on page 81 infra.

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MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—" May I know, Sir, whether before the amalgamation each port did not keep separate accounts under the Indian Ports Act? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" Before the amalgamation each port was keeping a separate account but after the amalgamation, there is only one combined account for all ports."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—" Is it not a serious irregularity that such accounts are not kept for each port? "

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" I do not see any irregularity in it."

Port Conservancy Boards and Landing and Shipping Fees Committees and their function in respect of the ports.

* 71-B *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased—

(*a*) to place before the House the rules by which the Port Conservancy Boards and the Landing and Shipping Fees Committees are governed; and to state—

(*b*) what objects these bodies have in view in connexion with the administration of ports, respectively;

(*c*) what their respective powers and duties are;

(*d*) what defects exist in the statutory constitution and basis of these bodies;

(*e*) how they are sought to be mended;

(*f*) what powers of control can be exercised by the Provincial Legislature over the administration of the ports under the Government of India Act;

(*g*) whether details of income and expenditure of the several ports may be made available to the public in connexion with their administration by the Madras Ports department;

(*h*) by which officer of Government are the accounts kept by the port authorities audited, and whether the audit notes are submitted to Government and orders passed thereon; and

(*i*) the income and expenditure of the ports of Mangalore and Malpe for the year 1937–38 with the audit notes of the auditing officer thereon and Government Orders thereon?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" (*a*) *to* (*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to starred question No. 4 on page 21 of Council Debates, Volume III, No. I, dated 21st December 1937. As stated therein, paragraphs 194–195 of the Port Manual (Sixth Edition) contain the rules in regard to the constitution,